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Report of the Committee on Information

Thirty-eighth session
(26 April-6 May 2016)

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Note

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Chapter I
Introduction

1. In its resolution 34/182, the General Assembly decided to maintain the Committee to Review United Nations Public Information Policies and Activities, established by its resolution 33/115 C, which would be known as the Committee on Information, and to increase its membership from 41 to 66. In section I, paragraph 2, of resolution 34/182, the Assembly requested the Committee:

(a) To continue to examine United Nations public information policies and activities, in the light of the evolution of international relations, particularly during the past two decades, and of the imperatives of the establishment of the new international economic order and of a new world information and communication order;

(b) To evaluate and follow up the efforts made and the progress achieved by the United Nations system in the field of information and communications;

(c) To promote the establishment of a new, more just and more effective world information and communication order intended to strengthen peace and international understanding and based on the free circulation and wider and better balanced dissemination of information and to make recommendations thereon to the General Assembly.

The Assembly also requested the Committee and the Secretary-General to report to it at its thirty-fifth session.

2. The General Assembly, from its thirty-sixth to seventieth sessions, took note of the reports of the Committee and adopted consensus resolutions. At its seventieth session, the Assembly took note of the report of the Committee and adopted consensus resolutions 70/93 A and B.

3. Currently, the Committee is composed of the following Member States:

Algeria	Bulgaria
Angola	Burkina Faso
Antigua and Barbuda	Burundi
Argentina	Cabo Verde
Armenia	Chile
Austria	China
Azerbaijan	Colombia
Bangladesh	Congo
Belarus	Costa Rica
Belgium	Côte d'Ivoire
Belize	Croatia
Benin	Cuba
Brazil	Cyprus

Czech Republic
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Denmark
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Gabon
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Guatemala
Guinea
Guyana
Hungary
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Lebanon
Liberia
Libya
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malta
Mexico
Monaco
Mongolia
Morocco
Mozambique
Nepal
Netherlands
Niger
Nigeria
Oman
Pakistan
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Republic of Korea
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Slovakia
Solomon Islands
Somalia

South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Suriname
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Thailand
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Ukraine
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Uruguay
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Viet Nam
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Chapter II
Organizational questions

A. Opening of the session

4. The organizational meeting of the thirty-eighth session of the Committee on Information was held on 26 April 2016 at United Nations Headquarters. The session was opened by the Chair of the Committee, Kaha Imnadze (Georgia).

B. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

5. At its organizational meeting, on 26 April, the Committee adopted the following agenda and programme of work (A/AC.198/2016/1):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work.
3. Admission of new members.
4. Statement by the Chair.
5. Statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information.
6. General debate.
7. Consideration of reports submitted by the Secretary-General.
8. Open-ended working group of the Committee on Information.
9. Consideration and adoption of the report of the Committee to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session.

6. The Committee held its general debate on 26 and 27 April 2016. On the afternoon of 26 April, the Department of Public Information, led by the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, held an interactive dialogue with Member States.

7. For its consideration of agenda item 7, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Public Information: strategic communications services (A/AC.198/2016/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Public Information: news services (A/AC.198/2016/3);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Public Information: outreach and knowledge services (A/AC.198/2016/4);

(d) Proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019, Part two: biennial programme plan, Programme 24, Public information (A/71/6 (Prog. 24)).

C. Observers

8. The European Union, the State of Palestine, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Organization of la Francophonie, the Holy See and the League of Arab States also participated in the session as observers.

Chapter III
General debate

9. Statements in the general debate were made by the following Member States: Thailand (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), the Dominican Republic (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)), Mexico (on behalf of Grupo de Amigos del Español en las Naciones Unidas), Burkina Faso (on behalf of the Francophone Group of New York), Argentina, India, Egypt, Cuba, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Côte d'Ivoire, Costa Rica, Bangladesh, Colombia, El Salvador, the Sudan, Paraguay, Japan, the United States of America, South Africa, Morocco, China, Brazil, the Russian Federation, Libya, Portugal, Pakistan, Lebanon, the Republic of Korea, Algeria, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Zambia, Nepal, Chile, Senegal and Mexico. The meeting was also addressed by the following observers: the European Union, the State of Palestine and the International Organization of la Francophonie.

10. The general debate was preceded by a statement by the Chair of the Committee, Kaha Imnadze. The Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, Cristina Gallach, also made a statement and responded to questions and comments by Member States.

11. Paraguay became a member of the Committee after serving a year as an observer and the League of Arab States became an observer to the Committee.

12. In addressing the substantive issues before the Committee, speakers pointed to the important role that the United Nations played in global affairs across a range of issues, from economic and social development to human rights, peace and security, sustainability issues and migrant and refugee concerns. As a result, the Department of Public Information had an important role to play in publicizing the work of the United Nations and engaging, educating and empowering various stakeholders around the world so that they were aware of the Organization's work and felt that it was accessible and transparent. Speakers pointed to the "Turn the World UN Blue" campaign to celebrate the seventieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations and the strategic campaigns used to raise awareness around the Sustainable Development Goals, the post-2015 development agenda and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as just a few examples of how the Department of Public Information used new technologies, multilingualism, partnerships and collaboration with Member States and United Nations country teams to highlight the work of the Organization and publicize key issues to global audiences. The success of the Department was critical to the Organization's success in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and tackling many of the pressing issues facing the world.

13. Many of the interventions focused on the role of multilingualism in the work of the Department, noting the importance of reaching as many people as possible through the use of as many languages and technologies as possible. Delegations applauded the work done by the Department to offer increased content on websites, social media and traditional media in all six official languages of the United Nations, but continued to lament that daily press releases were not available in all six official languages.

14. While many speakers acknowledged the need for multilingualism to be mainstreamed in the work of the United Nations, other delegates pointed out the need for such work to be accomplished in a cost-neutral manner using existing resources. Several speakers regretted that the General Assembly had not approved the Secretary-General's request for increased budgetary resources in order to meet the demands of multilingualism. Given that additional financial resources had not been allocated for the most recent biennium, other delegates urged the Department to develop a strategy to deliver daily press releases in all six official languages of the United Nations, including the reallocation of personnel resources to meet that goal. Several delegations expressed concern about linking the issue to budgetary matters, given that the General Assembly had already stated that the question should be resolved through the equitable distribution of budgetary resources. The lack of resources should not impede the resolution of the issue.

15. A speaker representing a large group pointed out that the digital divide between the developed and the developing countries remained a matter of concern. As such, it was crucial to continue using traditional methods of communication, including radio, television and the written press. While several speakers supported the use of new technologies, such as Twitter, to reach wider audiences, they also urged continued support for United Nations information centres and the use of traditional media to reach those still excluded from such innovations. One speaker also urged the Department to look at how international organizations had changed the means of consuming media, while not losing sight of traditional communications means, such as television and radio.

16. Delegates universally praised the work of the United Nations information centres, stating that their role was vital in the formulation of public opinion of the United Nations and its work, in particular its ability to promote tolerance, mutual respect and dialogue between civilizations. Many delegations voiced support for strengthening the capacity of the information centres in developing countries to better achieve the goal of promoting the Organization's public image. The information centres also played an important role in reaching people in local languages through local media, which helped to make the Organization's work more accessible and relevant.

17. One delegate said that while the Department should continue to disseminate information about the 2030 Agenda and other pressing issues, it must also pay close attention to the current dangerous situation that had been created by violence, extremism and terrorism. General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 68/127 on a world against violence and violent extremism and resolution 55/23 on the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations, should now be included in the Department's global promotional campaigns.

18. Several speakers voiced concerns about the potential for the politicization of public information and the possible inappropriate use of modern information and communication technologies to interfere in the internal affairs of sovereign States and destabilize countries and regions in contravention of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. One speaker noted that new technologies must be used in line with the Charter with a view to preventing the Internet from being used as a cyber battlefield.

19. Several delegates recognized the United Nations Academic Impact for the work it had done to engage academic and research communities around the world and disseminate information about the United Nations to that important constituency. One delegate urged the Impact to increase its outreach to universities in developing countries. Similarly, during the interactive dialogue, while commending the work done by the Impact and emphasizing its importance, a number of delegates requested that this global initiative, which aligns institutions of higher education with the United Nations in furthering the realization of the purposes and mandate of the United Nations, be strengthened.

20. One speaker acknowledged the Department's close cooperation with the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations, Field Support and Political Affairs to promote and support United Nations peacekeeping operations. The delegate urged the Department of Public Information to highlight the contributions of United Nations peacekeepers on media platforms, both in troop-contributing countries and worldwide.

21. A number of delegates voiced strong support for the special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department of Public Information, noting that it helped to raise awareness about the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. Several speakers also commended the Department on its training programme for Palestinian journalists.

22. Delegates commended the work of the Organization's library, in particular its efforts to digitize files and to make the guide to the United Nations available in all six official languages of the Organization. Delegates recognized the huge effort made by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library and the United Nations Office at Geneva to digitize some 5 million pages that were now available online. Thanks to those efforts, millions of individuals would now have access to important documents that could be found only at the United Nations.

23. Responding to comments and queries by Member States, the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information emphasized the Department's commitment to multilingualism, which was now mainstreamed in its work and factored into all communications campaigns and products. However, without additional staff members, it would not be possible to produce press releases in all six official United Nations languages. Nevertheless, the Department was seeking creative ways to enhance its multilingual reach and impact. She thanked delegates for recognizing the work of the United Nations information centres and acknowledged the substantive support provided to them by Member States. Further, many centres had taken the lead in partnering, inside and outside the Organization, to promote the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and had received strong support from developing countries in that regard. She encouraged the developed countries to become more involved. In the area of peace and security, the Under-Secretary-General underlined the importance of communicating the Organization's work on peacekeeping and conflict prevention and resolution. More broadly, the Department would raise the profile of the human rights agenda, in concert with relevant United Nations offices and departments. Seeking partnerships with civil society and academia was also important, in particular in order to mobilize young people.

Chapter IV

Consideration and adoption of the report of the Committee to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session

24. At its 5th plenary meeting, the Committee on Information proceeded to adopt its draft report, including two draft resolutions, by consensus. A text submitted by the Group of 77 and China formed the basis for negotiation of the draft resolutions, which involved two negotiating groups, the Group of 77 and China and the European Union, as well as other Member States. The Committee also took note of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6 (Prog. 24)).

25. In remarks before the adoption of the resolution, the delegate of the Russian Federation stated that his delegation had decided not to break the consensus reached during the negotiations on the draft resolutions on questions relating to information despite the fact that some of its important suggestions had not been not taken into consideration and expressed his hope that those suggestions would make their way into resolutions in the following sessions of the Committee.

Questions relating to information

Draft resolution A
Information in the service of humanity

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the comprehensive and important report of the Committee on Information,[1]

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General,[2]

Urges all countries, organizations of the United Nations system as a whole and all others concerned, reaffirming their commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to the principles of freedom of the press and freedom of information, as well as to those of the independence, pluralism and diversity of the media, deeply concerned by the disparities existing between developed and developing countries and the consequences of every kind arising from those disparities that affect the capability of the public, private or other media and individuals in developing countries to disseminate information and communicate their views and their cultural and ethical values through endogenous cultural production, as well as to ensure the diversity of sources and their free access to information, and recognizing the call in this context for what in the United Nations and at various international forums has been termed "a new world information and communication order, seen as an evolving and continuous process":

(a) To cooperate and interact with a view to reducing existing disparities in information flows at all levels by increasing assistance for the development of communications infrastructures and capabilities in developing countries, with due regard for their needs and the priorities attached to such areas by those countries, and in order to enable them and the public, private or other media in developing

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth-first Session, Supplement No. 21* (A/71/21).
[2] A/71/___.

countries to develop their own information and communications policies freely and independently and increase the participation of media and individuals in the communication process, and to ensure a free flow of information at all levels;

(b) To ensure for journalists the free and effective performance of their professional tasks and condemn resolutely all attacks against them;

(c) To provide support for the continuation and strengthening of practical training programmes for broadcasters and journalists from public, private and other media in developing countries;

(d) To enhance regional efforts and cooperation among developing countries, as well as cooperation between developed and developing countries, to strengthen communications capacities and to improve the media infrastructure and communications technology in developing countries, especially in the areas of training and dissemination of information;

(e) To aim at, in addition to bilateral cooperation, providing all possible support and assistance to developing countries and their media, public, private or other, with due regard to their interests and needs in the field of information and to action already adopted within the United Nations system, including:

(i) The development of the human and technical resources that are indispensable for the improvement of information and communications systems in developing countries and support for the continuation and strengthening of practical training programmes, such as those already operating under both public and private auspices throughout the developing world;

(ii) The creation of conditions that will enable developing countries and their media, public, private or other, to have, by using their national and regional resources, the communications technology suited to their national needs, as well as the necessary programme material, especially for radio and television broadcasting;

(iii) Assistance in establishing and promoting telecommunication links at the subregional, regional and interregional levels, especially among developing countries;

(iv) The facilitation, as appropriate, of access by developing countries to advanced communications technology available on the open market;

(f) To provide full support for the International Programme for the Development of Communication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which should support both public and private media.

Draft resolution B
United Nations public information policies and activities

The General Assembly,

Emphasizing that the Committee on Information is its main subsidiary body mandated to make recommendations to it relating to the work of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat,

Reaffirming its resolution 13 (I) of 13 February 1946, by which the General Assembly established the Department of Public Information, with a view to promoting to the greatest possible extent an informed understanding of the work and purposes of the United Nations among the peoples of the world, and all other relevant resolutions of the Assembly related to the activities of the Department,

Emphasizing that the contents of public information and communications should be placed at the heart of the strategic management of the United Nations and that a culture of communications and transparency should permeate all levels of the Organization as a means of fully informing the peoples of the world of the aims and activities of the United Nations, in accordance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, in order to create broad-based global support for the United Nations,

Stressing that the primary mission of the Department of Public Information is to provide, through its outreach activities, accurate, impartial, comprehensive, balanced, timely, relevant and multilingual information to the public on the tasks and responsibilities of the United Nations in order to strengthen international support for the activities of the Organization with the greatest transparency,

Recalling its resolutions 70/93 A and B of 9 December 2015, which provided an opportunity to take due steps to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Department of Public Information and to maximize the use of its resources,

Expressing its concern that the gap in information and communications technology between the developed and the developing countries has continued to widen and that vast segments of the population in developing countries are not benefiting from the information and communications technologies that are currently available, and in this regard underlining the necessity of rectifying the imbalances in the present development of and access to information and communications technologies in order to create a more just, equitable, accessible and effective environment in this regard,

Recognizing that developments in information and communications technologies open vast new opportunities for economic growth and social development and can play an important role in the eradication of poverty in developing countries, and at the same time emphasizing that the development of these technologies poses challenges and risks and could lead to the further widening of disparities between and within countries,

Recalling its resolution 69/324 of 11 September 2015 on multilingualism, and emphasizing the importance of making appropriate use of all the official languages of the United Nations in all the activities of the Department of Public Information, including in coordination with other departments of the Secretariat, with the aim of eliminating the disparity between the use of English and the use of the five other official languages, as well as the importance of ensuring the full and equitable treatment of all the official languages of the United Nations in all the activities of the Department,

I
Introduction

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in respect of the public information policies and activities of the United Nations, to continue to implement fully the recommendations contained in relevant resolutions;

2. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations remains the indispensable foundation of a peaceful and just world and that its voice must be heard in a clear and effective manner, and emphasizes the essential role of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat in this context;

3. *Stresses* the importance of the provision of clear, timely, accurate and comprehensive information by the Secretariat to Member States, upon their request, within the framework of existing mandates and procedures;

4. *Also stresses* that Member States should abstain from using information and communications technologies in contravention of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations;

5. *Reaffirms* the central role of the Committee on Information in United Nations public information policies and activities, including the prioritization of those activities, and decides that recommendations relating to the programme of the Department of Public Information shall originate, to the extent possible, in the Committee and shall be considered by the Committee;

6. *Requests* the Department of Public Information, following the priorities set out by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/17 of 18 November 2014, and recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3] the 2005 World Summit Outcome[4] and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[5] to pay particular attention to peace and security, sustainable development and human rights and to major issues such as the eradication of poverty, including the global food crisis, conflict prevention, epidemics, including HIV/AIDS, the Ebola outbreak, disarmament, including nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and the needs of the African continent;

7. *Requests* the Department of Public Information and its network of United Nations information centres to pay particular attention to the outcomes of the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, and to the progress in implementing those outcomes;

[3] Resolution 55/2.
[4] Resolution 60/1.
[5] Resolution 70/1.

II
General activities of the Department of Public Information

8. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Public Information;[6]

9. *Requests* the Department of Public Information to maintain its commitment to a culture of evaluation and to continue to evaluate its products and activities with the objective of enhancing their effectiveness, and to continue to cooperate and coordinate with Member States and the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat;

10. *Reaffirms* the importance of more effective coordination between the Department of Public Information and the Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure consistency in the messages of the Organization;

11. *Notes* the efforts of the Department of Public Information to continue to publicize the work and decisions of the General Assembly, and requests the Department to continue to enhance its working relationship with the Office of the President of the General Assembly;

12. *Encourages* continued collaboration between the Department of Public Information and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the promotion of culture and in the fields of education and communication, bridging the existing gap between the developed and the developing countries;

13. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts of the Department of Public Information to work at the local level with other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to enhance the coordination of their communications activities, urges the Department to encourage the United Nations Communications Group to promote linguistic diversity in its work, and reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its thirty-ninth session on progress achieved in this regard;

14. *Reaffirms* that the Department of Public Information must prioritize its work programme, while respecting existing mandates and in line with regulation 5.6 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation,[7] to focus its message and better concentrate its efforts and to match its programmes with the needs of its target audiences, including the linguistic dimension, on the basis of improved feedback and evaluation mechanisms;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to exert all efforts to ensure that publications and other information services of the Secretariat, including the United Nations website, the United Nations News Service and United Nations social media accounts, contain comprehensive, balanced, objective and equitable information in all official languages about the issues before the Organization and that they maintain editorial independence, impartiality, accuracy and full consistency with resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly;

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[6] A/AC.198/2016/2-4.
[7] ST/SGB/2000/8.

16. *Underlines* the critical need to address violations of the relevant international rules and regulations that govern the area of broadcasting, including television, radio and satellite broadcasting, in the most appropriate manner;

17. *Reiterates* its request to the Department of Public Information and content-providing offices of the Secretariat to ensure that United Nations publications are produced in all six official languages, as well as in an environmentally friendly and cost-neutral manner, and to continue to coordinate closely with all other entities, including all other departments of the Secretariat and funds and programmes of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, in order to avoid duplication in the issuance of United Nations publications;

18. *Encourages*, in this regard, the Department of Public Information and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of the Secretariat to consult on opportunities for merging their publishing activities and to develop new collaborative arrangements to enhance multilingualism in other outputs in a cost-neutral manner, bearing in mind the importance of ensuring the full and equitable treatment of all the official languages of the United Nations, and to report thereon to the Committee on Information at its thirty-ninth session;

19. *Emphasizes* that the Department of Public Information should maintain and improve its activities in the areas of special interest to developing countries and, where appropriate, other countries with special needs, and that the activities of the Department should contribute to bridging the existing gap between the developing and the developed countries in the crucial field of public information and communications;

20. *Reiterates its growing concern* that the issuance of daily press releases has not been expanded to all official languages, as requested in previous resolutions and in full respect of the principle of parity of all six official languages, recalls the relevant report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Public Information,[8] reiterates its request that the Department, as a matter of priority, design a strategy to deliver daily press releases in all six official languages through creative schemes, in a cost-neutral manner and in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions, at the latest by the thirty-ninth session of the Committee on Information, and also reiterates its request that the Department report thereon to the Committee, at that session;

Multilingualism and public information

21. *Emphasizes* that multilingualism, as a core value of the Organization, entails the active involvement and commitment of all stakeholders, including all United Nations duty stations and offices away from Headquarters;

22. *Underlines* the responsibility of the Secretariat in the mainstreaming of multilingualism into all of its communication and information activities, within existing resources on an equitable basis, calls upon the Department of Public Information to continue to work with the Coordinator for Multilingualism on best practices throughout the Secretariat to fulfil this responsibility, and requests the

[8] A/AC.198/2016/3.

Secretary-General to report on such best practices and their implementation in his upcoming report to the Committee on Information;

23. *Emphasizes* the importance of making use of all the official languages of the United Nations, ensuring their full and equitable treatment in all the activities of all divisions and offices of the Department of Public Information with the aim of eliminating the disparity between the use of English and the use of the five other official languages, in this regard reaffirms its request that the Secretary-General ensure that the Department has the necessary capacity in all the official languages to undertake all of its activities, and requests that this aspect be included in future programme budget proposals for the Department, bearing in mind the principle of parity of all six official languages, while respecting the workload in each official language;

24. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the Department of Public Information to enhance multilingualism in all of its activities, stresses the importance of ensuring that the texts of all new public United Nations documents in all six official languages, information materials, global promotional campaigns and all older United Nations documents are made available through the United Nations websites and are accessible to Member States without delay, and further stresses the importance of fully implementing its resolution 69/324;

25. *Encourages* the Department of Public Information to continue its ongoing efforts to incorporate the working method of having thematic focal points, currently applied by the language units of the United Nations websites, as a best practice of multilingualism in order to improve the quality of the content of the websites;

26. *Also encourages* the Department of Public Information to continue to use other languages in addition to the official languages, when appropriate, according to the target audience, with a view to reaching the widest possible spectrum of audiences and extending the United Nations message to all corners of the world in order to strengthen international support for the activities of the Organization;

Bridging the digital divide

27. *Requests* the Department of Public Information to contribute to raising the awareness of the international community of the importance of the implementation of the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society[9] and of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other information and communications technologies can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide, including by commemorating World Telecommunication and Information Society Day on 17 May;

Network of United Nations information centres

28. *Emphasizes* the importance of the network of United Nations information centres in enhancing the public image of the United Nations, in disseminating messages on the United Nations to local populations, especially in developing countries, bearing in mind that information in local languages has the strongest

[9] See A/C.2/59/3 and A/60/687.

impact on local populations, and in mobilizing support for the work of the United Nations at the local level;

29. *Welcomes* the work done by the network of United Nations information centres, including the United Nations Regional Information Centre, in favour of the publication of United Nations information materials and the translation of important documents into languages other than the official languages of the United Nations, encourages information centres to continue their important multilingual activities in the interactive and proactive aspects of their work and to develop web pages in local languages, also encourages the Department of Public Information to provide the necessary resources and technical facilities, with a view to reaching the widest possible spectrum of audiences and extending the United Nations message to all corners of the world in order to strengthen international support for the activities of the Organization, and further encourages the continuation of efforts in this regard;

30. *Stresses* the importance of rationalizing the network of United Nations information centres, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to continue to make proposals in this direction, including through the redeployment of resources where necessary, and to report to the Committee on Information at its successive sessions;

31. *Reaffirms* that the rationalization of United Nations information centres must be carried out on a case-by-case basis in consultation with all concerned Member States in which existing information centres are located, the countries served by those information centres and other interested countries in the region, taking into consideration the distinctive characteristics of each region;

32. *Recognizes* that the network of United Nations information centres, especially in developing countries, should continue to enhance its impact and activities, including through strategic communications support, and calls upon the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of this approach to the Committee on Information at its successive sessions;

33. *Requests* the Department of Public Information, through the United Nations information centres, to strengthen its cooperation with all other United Nations entities at the country level and in the context of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, in order to enhance coherence in communications and to avoid duplication of work;

34. *Stresses* the importance of taking into account the special needs and requirements of developing countries in the field of information and communications technology for the effective flow of information in those countries;

35. *Also stresses* the importance of efforts to strengthen the outreach activities of the United Nations to those Member States remaining outside the network of United Nations information centres, and encourages the Secretary-General, within the context of rationalization, to extend the services of the network of information centres to those Member States;

36. *Further stresses* that the Department of Public Information should continue to review the allocation of both staff and financial resources to the United Nations information centres in developing countries, taking into account the specific needs of the least developed countries, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to include in his upcoming report comprehensive information on the

functioning of the United Nations information centres, including the outcome of the review of the effective and efficient allocation of staff and financial resources to United Nations information centres and the possible measures to improve the operation of the centres in developing countries;

37. *Welcomes* the support of some Member States, including developing countries, in offering, inter alia, rent-free premises for the United Nations information centres because of lack of funding, bearing in mind that such support should not be a substitute for the full allocation of financial resources for the information centres in the context of the programme budget of the United Nations;

38. *Notes* the concern of many Member States regarding the measures taken by the Secretariat in relation to the information centres in Mexico City, Pretoria and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, expresses the hope that these measures will not have an adverse impact on the ability of the centres to act as bridges between the United Nations and local audiences, and therefore requests the Secretary-General to report on the impact of these measures and to explore ways to strengthen the United Nations information centres in Cairo, Mexico City, Pretoria and Rio de Janeiro, keeping in mind the need to do so within existing resources, and encourages the Secretary-General to explore the strengthening of other centres, especially in Africa, in cooperation with the Member States concerned and in a cost-neutral manner;

39. *Recalls* its resolution 64/243 of 24 December 2009, in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to establish a United Nations information centre in Luanda as a contribution towards addressing the needs of Portuguese-speaking African countries, and reiterates its request to the Secretary-General, in coordination with the Government of Angola, to take the measures necessary for the prompt establishment of the information centre and to report to the Committee on Information at its thirty-ninth session on the operationalization of the centre;

40. *Takes note with appreciation* of the offer made by the Government of the Republic of Korea to host a United Nations information centre and, noting the report by the Secretary-General to the Committee on Information on the feasibility of the acceptance of such an offer in a cost-effective manner, requests the Department of Public Information to continue its consultation with the Government of the Republic of Korea in this regard;

III
Strategic communications services

41. *Reaffirms* the role of the strategic communications services in devising and disseminating United Nations messages by developing communications strategies, with the overall emphasis on multilingualism from the planning stage, in close collaboration with the substantive departments, United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, in full compliance with their legislative mandates;

Promotional campaigns

42. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Department of Public Information in promoting, through its campaigns, issues of importance to the international community, and requests the Department, in cooperation with the countries concerned and with the relevant organizations and bodies of the United

Nations system, to continue to take appropriate measures to enhance world public awareness on, inter alia, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, United Nations reform, the eradication of poverty, conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, refugees and migrants, culture and development, disarmament, decolonization, human rights, including the rights of women and children, persons with disabilities and migrant workers, strategic coordination in humanitarian relief, especially in natural disasters and other crises, communicable and non-communicable diseases, the needs of the African continent, the nature of the critical economic and social situation in Africa and the priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,[10] the special needs of the least developed countries, the permanent memorial to the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade, combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, the initiative on a world against violence and violent extremism, dialogue among civilizations, the culture of peace and tolerance and the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, as well as prevention of genocide;

43. *Requests* the Secretariat, especially the Department of Public Information, to contribute to the observance of International Mother Language Day, on 21 February, as proclaimed by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Day of Nowruz, on 21 March, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 64/253 of 23 February 2010, the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, on 25 March, in accordance with its resolution 62/122 of 17 December 2007, World Press Freedom Day, on 3 May, in accordance with its decision 48/432 of 20 December 1993, the Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives During the Second World War, on 8 and 9 May, in accordance with its resolution 59/26 of 22 November 2004, the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, on 19 June, in accordance with its resolution 69/293 of 19 June 2015, Nelson Mandela International Day, on 18 July, in accordance with its resolution 64/13 of 10 November 2009, the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, on 26 September, in accordance with its resolution 68/32 of 5 December 2013, the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, on 29 November, in accordance with its resolutions 32/40 B of 2 December 1977 and 34/65 of 12 December 1979, the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime, on 9 December, in accordance with its resolution 69/323 of 11 September 2015, and Human Rights Day, on 10 December, in accordance with its resolution 423 (V) of 4 December 1950, and to play a role in raising awareness and promoting these events in a cost-neutral manner, where appropriate;

44. *Requests* the Department of Public Information and its network of United Nations information centres to raise broad awareness and to engage in a comprehensive and multilingual promotional campaign and coverage, as appropriate, of all high-level meetings mandated by the General Assembly, including the World Humanitarian Summit, to be held in Istanbul, Turkey on 23 and 24 May 2016, the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, to be held in Antalya, Turkey from 27 to 29 May 2016, the United Nations

[10] A/57/304, annex.

Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), to be held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016, and the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Marrakesh, Morocco from 7 to 18 November 2016;

45. *Recognizes* the communication efforts led by the Department of Public Information in promoting the review conferences of the parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and the preparatory processes, as well as before, during and after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular, the production of various multimedia materials, including videos, images and graphics, to promote the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda and the issues before it in the six official languages of the Organization, and in this regard encourages the Department to continue this practice in promoting high-level meetings, including through the use of traditional and new media such as social media, as appropriate;

46. *Also recognizes* the efforts of the Department of Public Information in communicating about and promoting the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015, as well as the signing ceremony of the Paris agreement held in New York on 22 April 2016, and in this regard encourages the Department to engage in a comprehensive promotional campaign in preparation for the next Conference of the Parties, to be held in Marrakesh;

47. *Requests* the Department of Public Information and its network of United Nations information centres to continue raising awareness of and disseminate information, in a cost-neutral manner, on the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, declared by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/119 of 10 December 2010;

48. *Recalls* its resolutions 68/237 of 23 December 2013 and 69/16 of 18 November 2014 on the International Decade for People of African Descent, and requests the Department of Public Information and its network of United Nations information centres to continue raising awareness of and disseminate information on the International Decade, in accordance with the programme for the implementation of the International Decade adopted by the General Assembly, in a cost-neutral manner;

49. *Underlines* the importance of the Department of Public Information integrating multilingualism in the planning and implementation of promotional campaigns, including, inter alia, the design of logotypes and isologotypes in different languages, where appropriate, as well as the use of hashtags for social media campaigns in more than one language, taking into account the needs of the target audiences;

50. *Encourages* the Department of Public Information to develop partnerships with the private sector in a cost-neutral manner and to report thereon to the Committee on Information at its thirty-ninth session, and in this regard notes the partnership with airlines that provide to their customers in-flight programmes featuring United Nations activities;

Role of the Department of Public Information in United Nations peacekeeping operations, special political missions and peacebuilding

51. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to ensure the active involvement of the Department of Public Information from the planning stage and in all stages of future peacekeeping operations and special political missions through interdepartmental consultations and coordination with other departments of the Secretariat, in particular with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Field Support and the Department of Political Affairs;

52. *Requests* the Department of Public Information, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Field Support and the Department of Political Affairs to continue their cooperation in raising awareness of the new realities, far-reaching successes and challenges faced by peacekeeping operations, especially multidimensional and complex ones, and special political missions, and continues to call upon the four Departments to develop and implement a comprehensive communications strategy on current challenges facing United Nations peacekeeping and special political missions;

53. *Stresses* the importance of enhancing the public information capacity of the Department of Public Information in the field of peacekeeping operations and special political missions as well as its role, in close cooperation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Field Support and the Department of Political Affairs, in the process of selecting public information staff for United Nations peacekeeping operations or missions, and in this regard invites the Department of Public Information to second public information staff who have the skills necessary to fulfil the tasks of the operations and special political missions, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution in accordance with Chapter XV, Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter, and to consider views expressed, especially by host countries, when appropriate, in this regard;

54. *Emphasizes* the importance of the peacekeeping gateway on the United Nations website, and requests the Department of Public Information to continue its efforts to support the peacekeeping missions in further developing and maintaining their websites;

55. *Requests* the Department of Public Information, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Field Support and the Department of Political Affairs to continue to cooperate in implementing an effective outreach programme to explain the zero-tolerance policy of the Organization regarding sexual exploitation and abuse and to inform the public of the outcome of all such cases involving United Nations staff and related personnel, including cases where allegations are ultimately found to be legally unproven, and also to inform the public of the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Comprehensive Strategy on Assistance and Support to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Staff and Related Personnel;[11]

56. *Notes* the importance of communication activities and dissemination of information relating to peacebuilding efforts, in particular, meetings and activities of the Peacebuilding Commission, country-specific configurations, the Peacebuilding

[11] Resolution 62/214, annex.

Support Office of the Secretariat and the Peacebuilding Fund, and requests the Department of Public Information to cooperate with these entities in that regard, with a view to widening outreach of their important work and encouraging national ownership;

Role of the Department of Public Information in strengthening dialogue among civilizations and the culture of peace as means of enhancing understanding among nations

57. *Recalls* its resolutions on dialogue among civilizations and the culture of peace, and requests the Department of Public Information, while ensuring the pertinence and relevance of subjects for promotional campaigns on this issue, to continue to provide the support necessary for the dissemination of information pertaining to dialogue among civilizations and the culture of peace, as well as the initiative on the Alliance of Civilizations, and to take due steps in fostering the culture of dialogue among civilizations, promoting the initiative on a world against violence and violent extremism in accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/109 of 10 December 2015, and promoting cultural understanding, tolerance, respect for and freedom of religion or belief and effective enjoyment by all of all human rights and civil, political, economic. social and cultural rights, including the right to development and requests a briefing by the Secretariat on the measures taken to disseminate information pertaining to the dialogue among civilizations and the culture of peace, before the next session of the Committee on Information;

58. *Invites* the United Nations system, especially the Department of Public Information, to continue to encourage and facilitate dialogue among civilizations and to formulate ways and means to promote dialogue among civilizations in the activities of the United Nations in various fields, taking into account the Programme of Action of the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations,[12] and in this regard reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session the report requested by the Assembly in its resolution 60/4 of 20 October 2005;

59. *Recalls* its resolution 64/14 of 10 November 2009, in which it acknowledged the achievements of the Alliance of Civilizations and the efforts of the High Representative of the Secretary-General for the Alliance of Civilizations, and welcomes the discussion, at the sixth Alliance of Civilizations Forum, held in Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia, on 29 and 30 August 2014, on strategic and practical measures that generate and sustain common values and a shared sense of responsibility among all stakeholders, and the continuing support of the Department of Public Information for the work of the Alliance of Civilizations, including its ongoing projects;

IV
News services

60. *Stresses* that the central objective of the news services implemented by the Department of Public Information is the timely delivery of accurate, objective and balanced news and information emanating from the United Nations system in all mass media, including print, radio, television and the Internet, including social

[12] Resolution 56/6, sect. B.

media platforms, to the media and other audiences worldwide, with the overall emphasis on multilingualism from the planning stage, and reiterates its request to the Department to ensure that all breaking news stories and news alerts are accurate, impartial and free of bias;

61. *Recognizes* the important role of television and video services provided by the Department of Public Information, and notes the recent efforts in making available online broadcast-quality video that can be streamed or downloaded by smaller broadcast outlets that do not have access to satellite feeds;

Traditional means of communication

62. *Welcomes* the sustained efforts of United Nations Radio, which remains one of the most effective and far-reaching traditional media available to the Department of Public Information and an important instrument in United Nations activities, to enhance the timeliness, presentation and thematic focus of its multilingual programmes on United Nations activities and to ensure the widest possible dissemination of its programming to media outlets using the most suitable platforms and formats, pre-recorded or live, requests the Secretary-General to continue to make every effort to achieve parity in the six official languages in United Nations Radio productions, reiterates the important role of the 15-minute daily programmes created pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/82 B of 6 December 1999, and requests the Department to continue producing and disseminating the programmes, in accordance with client needs;

63. *Also welcomes* the ongoing efforts being made by the Department of Public Information to disseminate programmes directly to broadcasting stations all over the world in the six official languages, with the addition of Portuguese and Kiswahili as well as other languages where possible, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to include in his upcoming report to the Committee on Information detailed information about such partnerships with broadcasting stations as well as statistics about their multiplying impacts on potential audiences;

64. *Requests* the Department of Public Information to continue to build partnerships with local, national and regional broadcasters to extend the United Nations message to all corners of the world in an accurate and impartial way, and requests the News and Media Division of the Department to continue to take full advantage of modern technologies and equipment;

65. *Welcomes* the completion of an inventory of 67 years of United Nations audiovisual history, and, recognizing the importance of the audiovisual archives of the United Nations, stresses the urgency of digitization in order to prevent further deterioration of these unique historical archives and encourages the Department of Public Information to prioritize the development of collaborative arrangements for the digitization of these archives while preserving their multilingual character in a cost-neutral manner and to report thereon to the Committee on Information at its thirty-ninth session;

66. *Notes* the efforts made by the Department of Public Information and other stakeholders to plan, procure, implement, test and deploy a media assets management system solution for file-based production and for the management of the United Nations multimedia digital archives, calls upon the Department to continue to explore alternative and feasible solutions for the digitization,

preservation, quality assurance and technical processing of the audiovisual archive materials based on international standards and best practices, and encourages the Department to seek the support of public and private institutions for its work in digitizing, storing and managing these multilingual archives and to report thereon to the Committee on Information at its thirty-ninth session;

67. *Also notes*, in this regard, the proposed strategy for the digitization of the United Nations audiovisual archive materials for long-term preservation, access and sustainable management,[13] and requests the Department of Public Information to submit for consideration by the relevant bodies both a detailed proposal for the mass digitization of the audiovisual collections, within existing resources, and plans to solicit voluntary contributions to fund the digitization and storage of the audiovisual archives;

United Nations website

68. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations website is an essential tool for Member States, the general public, the media, non-governmental organizations and educational institutions, and in this regard reiterates the continued need for strengthened efforts by the Department of Public Information to regularly maintain, update and improve it;

69. *Recognizes* the potential of United Nations websites to offer multilingual and multimedia content, integrating written, spoken and visual elements in all of the official languages, and encourages the Department of Public Information to work towards such an objective;

70. *Also recognizes* the efforts made by the Secretariat to implement the basic accessibility requirements for persons with disabilities to gain access to and take part in the work of the United Nations in person or online, including through the work of the Accessibility Centre at United Nations Headquarters, calls upon the Department of Public Information to continue to work towards compliance with accessibility requirements on all new and updated pages of the website, with the aim of ensuring its accessibility for persons with different kinds of disabilities, and in this regard encourages the Department of Public Information and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management to further cooperate and identify potential synergies;

71. *Reaffirms* the need to achieve full parity among the six official languages on all United Nations websites, and urges the Secretary-General to strengthen his efforts to develop, maintain and update multilingual United Nations websites and the web page of the Secretary-General in all the official languages of the United Nations, from within existing resources and on an equitable basis;

72. *Notes with concern* that the multilingual development and enrichment of the United Nations website in certain official languages has improved at a much slower rate than expected, and in this regard urges the Department of Public Information, in coordination with content-providing offices, to advance actions taken to achieve full parity among the six official languages on the United Nations website;

73. *Recalls* paragraph 32 of its resolution 69/324, notes with concern the disparity between the English and the non-English languages on the websites maintained by the Secretariat, urges the Secretary-General to lead the efforts of all

[13] A/AC.198/2014/3, annex.

offices and departments of the Secretariat to take concrete action to address such uneven development, and in this regard calls upon all stakeholders, including the Department of Public Information, content-providing offices and departments, in particular the Office of Information and Communications Technology of the Secretariat, to continue their collaboration, within their respective mandates, so as to achieve full parity among the six official languages on all United Nations websites developed and maintained by all Secretariat entities, in full conformity with the principles of multilingualism and in compliance with the relevant resolutions addressing multilingualism and accessibility for persons with disabilities, by making every effort to translate materials currently available only in English and by providing offices and departments with technological solutions that comply with the principle of parity, from within existing resources;

74. *Reaffirms its request* to the Secretary-General to ensure, while maintaining an up-to-date and accurate website, the equitable distribution among all official languages of financial and human resources within the Department of Public Information allocated to the United Nations website, with full respect for the needs and the specificities of all six official languages;

75. *Welcomes* the cooperative arrangements undertaken by the Department of Public Information with academic institutions to increase the number of web pages available in official and non-official languages, and requests the Secretary-General, in coordination with content-providing offices, to extend such cooperative arrangements, in a cost-effective manner, to all the official languages of the United Nations, bearing in mind the necessity of adherence to United Nations standards and guidelines;

76. *Encourages* the continuation of live webcasts of open, formal meetings of the General Assembly and of the Security Council with interpretation services, and requests the Secretariat to make every effort to provide full access to archived videos in all official languages of all past open formal United Nations meetings with interpretation services in strict observance of the principle of full parity of the six official languages of the United Nations;

77. *Reaffirms* the need to enhance the technological infrastructure of the Department of Public Information, including the United Nations information centres, on a continuous basis in order to widen the outreach of the Department and to continue to improve the United Nations website in a cost-neutral manner;

78. *Recognizes* that some official languages use non-Latin and bidirectional scripts and that technological infrastructures and supportive applications in the United Nations are based on Latin script, which leads to difficulties in processing non-Latin and bidirectional scripts, and urges the Office of Information and Communications Technology to further collaborate with the Department of Public Information to continue its efforts to ensure that technological infrastructures and supportive applications in the United Nations fully support Latin, non-Latin and bidirectional scripts in order to enhance the equality of all official languages on the United Nations website;

79. *Underlines* the importance, in the implementation of new communication tools such as social networks, of taking into account the linguistic dimension in order to ensure full parity among the official languages of the Organization, and in that regard stresses the need for United Nations social media campaigns to use hashtags suitable for each language;

80. *Recalls* that, in paragraph 28 of its resolution 69/324, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to include in his upcoming report on multilingualism a comprehensive review of the United Nations websites, presenting the status of content in non-official languages, as well as identifying innovative ideas, potential synergies and other cost-neutral measures to reinforce the broader multilingual development and enrichment of the United Nations websites, as appropriate;

81. *Notes* the uneven development of social media among the official languages of the United Nations, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its thirty-ninth session on the strategy of the Department of Public Information to ensure, by a more balanced use of all six official languages, that social media contribute to raising awareness of and support for the activities of the Organization;

V
Library services

82. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Department of Public Information to implement the recommendations of its 2011 working group on library improvement;

83. *Commends* the steps taken by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library and the other member libraries of the Steering Committee for the Modernization and Integrated Management of United Nations Libraries to align their activities, services and outputs more closely with the goals, objectives and operational priorities of the Organization, and calls upon the Dag Hammarskjöld Library to work with the other member libraries to devise a new statement of strategy for library services and to replace the former Steering Committee with the Steering Committee for Libraries of the United Nations focused on practical cooperation among the library services;

84. *Reiterates* the need to maintain a multilingual collection of books, periodicals and other materials in both hard copy and electronic formats, accessible to Member States and others, ensuring that the Dag Hammarskjöld Library continues to be a broadly accessible resource for information about the United Nations and its activities, including through a multilingual home page, from within existing resources;

85. *Welcomes* the initiatives taken by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, in its capacity as the focal point, to expand the scope of the regional training and knowledge-sharing workshops organized for the depository libraries in developing countries to include outreach in their activities;

86. *Acknowledges* the role of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library in enhancing knowledge-sharing and networking activities to ensure access to the vast store of United Nations knowledge for delegates, permanent missions of Member States, the Secretariat, researchers and depository libraries worldwide;

87. *Notes* the efforts of the iSeek team, through the intranet, to raise awareness among staff members of new initiatives and developments in different departments of the Secretariat, and reiterates its request to the Department of Public Information to work out, as a matter of priority, a strategy for Member States to also benefit from these new developments;

VI
Outreach services

88. *Stresses* that the central objective of the outreach and knowledge services implemented by the Department of Public Information is to promote awareness of the role and work of the United Nations by fostering dialogue with global constituencies, such as academia, civil society, educators, students and youth, with the overall emphasis on multilingualism from the planning stage, in close collaboration with the substantive departments, specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations;

89. *Notes with serious concern* that many outreach and knowledge services are not yet available in all official languages, and in this regard urges the Department of Public Information, as a matter of priority, to mainstream multilingualism into all outreach and knowledge services, bearing in mind the importance of making use of all the official languages of the United Nations and ensuring their full and equitable treatment in all the activities of the Department, with the aim of eliminating the disparity between the use of English and the use of the five other official languages;

90. *Encourages* the United Nations Academic Impact to take effective steps to facilitate exchanges between the United Nations and institutions of higher education and academic, research and scientific communities in all regions to support the common principles and purposes of the United Nations, contribute to the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, foster global citizenship and fill knowledge gaps, while recognizing the role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its constitution;

91. *Notes* the continued growth of the United Nations Academic Impact, calls upon the Department of Public Information to promote global awareness of the Academic Impact in order to encourage balanced participation among Member States and their continued support for the initiative, within existing resources, and encourages Member States to promote the initiative among their academic institutions, as appropriate, with a view to their joining it, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 70/93 A and B;

92. *Welcomes* the educational outreach activities of the Department of Public Information, and requests the Department to continue to reach educators and young people worldwide through a range of multilingual multimedia platforms including, in particular, in the dissemination of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the educational system, including elementary schools;

93. *Commends* the United Nations Academic Impact for its continued engagement with the global community of scholarship in realizing the objectives of the Organization, requests the Secretary-General to continue to promote this initiative by encouraging eligible institutions of higher education in all regions, especially from developing countries, to enrol and contribute actively to the goals of the United Nations, and in this regard notes with appreciation the cost-neutral partnerships that the Academic Impact has successfully initiated thus far with a view to multiplying membership;

94. *Emphasizes* the importance of the continued implementation by the Department of Public Information of the ongoing Reham Al-Farra Memorial Journalists' Fellowship Programme for broadcasters and journalists from developing

countries and countries with economies in transition, as mandated by the General Assembly, and requests the Department to consider how best to maximize the benefits derived from the Programme by extending, inter alia, its duration and the number of its participants;

95. *Encourages* the Department of Public Information to make the *UN Chronicle* available in paperless editions only, with a view to expanding the service to all six official languages within existing resources, and requests the Department to report to the Committee on Information at its thirty-ninth session on progress in this matter;

96. *Welcomes* the movement towards educational outreach and the orientation of the *UN Chronicle*, and to this end encourages the *UN Chronicle* to continue to develop partnerships and collaborative educational activities and events with civil society organizations and institutions of higher learning;

97. *Acknowledges* the importance of the *Yearbook of the United Nations* as an authoritative reference work, welcomes the work of the Department of Public Information in expanding the content and the functions of the website of the *Yearbook*, and takes note of the positive assessment of the *Yearbook* in the survey carried out by the Department in order to evaluate its impact as requested by the Committee on Information at its thirty-seventh session;

98. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to ensure that, in view of their income-generating nature, guided tours at United Nations Headquarters are consistently available in all six official languages of the United Nations as well as in non-official languages;

99. *Notes* the ongoing efforts of the Department of Public Information to strengthen its role as a focal point for two-way interaction with civil society relating to the priorities and concerns of the Organization identified by Member States, and also notes in this regard the increasing involvement of civil society in United Nations activities, including the outreach activities directed at youth representatives and young journalists;

100. *Recalls* its resolution 41/68 D of 3 December 1986, commends the World Federation of United Nations Associations and its more than 100 national United Nations associations for the valuable contributions that they have made during the past 70 years through their global activities in the mobilization of popular support for the United Nations, and calls for continued collaboration between the World Federation and the Department of Public Information in support of their complementary objectives;

101. *Commends*, in a spirit of cooperation, the United Nations Correspondents Association for its ongoing activities and for its Dag Hammarskjöld Memorial Scholarship Fund, which sponsors journalists from developing countries to come to United Nations Headquarters and report on the activities during the sessions of the General Assembly, and further encourages the international community to continue its financial support for the Fund;

102. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts and contribution of United Nations Messengers of Peace, Goodwill Ambassadors and other advocates to promote the work of the United Nations and to enhance international public awareness of its priorities and concerns, and calls upon the Department of Public

Information to continue to involve them in its global communications and media strategies and outreach activities;

VII
Final remarks

103. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its thirty-ninth session and to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session on the activities of the Department of Public Information and on the implementation of all recommendations and requests contained in the present resolution, and requests the Department of Public Information to provide a briefing in this regard before the next session of the Committee on Information;

104. *Notes* the initiative taken by the Department of Public Information, in cooperation with the Department of Safety and Security and the Protocol and Liaison Service of the Secretariat, during the annual general debate of the General Assembly, to issue special identification stickers to press officers of Member States to enable them to escort media covering the visits of high-level officials to restricted areas, and strongly urges the Secretary-General to continue to improve this practice by acceding to the request by Member States to provide the needed number of additional passes to press officers of Member States to allow their access to all areas that are deemed restricted, in order to effectively and comprehensively report on high-level meetings that include officials of delegations of Member States;

105. *Requests* the Committee on Information to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session;

106. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session the item entitled "Questions relating to information".

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